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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT MUELLER and
FRANZ-JOSEF VOGELSANG

Serial No.: _____

Group Art Unit:

Filed: March 11, 2005

Examiner:

For: SWITCH, ESPECIALLY FOR BRANCHING OFF BULK
MATERIAL FLOWS

March 11, 2005

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request preliminary amendment of the Specification and claims of the above-identified application to place them in a U.S. format. The requested preliminary amendments are included in the appended worksheet and included in a Substitute Specification for the convenience of the U.S. Patent Office.

The appended Substitute Specification was prepared from the verified translation of PCT/DE2003/002605 incorporating the

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amended sheets in the verified translation of the amended sheets of PCT/DE2003/002605.

The recommended headings as prescribed in MPEP §608.01(a) were added. The original translations were also modified by using the preamble of claim 1 for the wording "according to the preamble of Claim 1" in the Background of the Invention and in the Summary of the Invention. Also in the Summary of the Invention the means of the subclaims were specified by using the wording of the subclaims. The European format application utilized the statement "by measures mentioned in the subclaims." All these changes are indicated in the appended work copy.

The claims were prepared from the amended sheets and modified as indicated in the accompanying work copy. Claim 8 was divided from claim 7 to make it definite under U.S. practice. Also claims 9-14 were drafted in a traditional U.S. format from the European format claims.

The abstract was taken from the English translated abstract from the International Application PCT/DE2003/002605 and amended by removing claim terms such as "said" and "comprising". These modifications are similarly indicated in the appended work copy.

It is believed the foregoing amendments incorporated in the clean copy of the Specification are consistent with the translation and do not add new matter. As a result entry of the

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Specification and claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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